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(*b*) the names of the three municipal towns and the three districts that occupy top ranks in returning high mortality under (i) enteric fever, (ii) respiratory diseases, (iii) cholera and (iv) smallpox in the State of Madras for 1950–51 and 1951–52 and the respective rates of mortality;

(*c*) the names of the three municipal towns and the three districts that occupy top rank in returning high (i) infantile mortality and (ii) maternal mortality for 1950–51 and 1951–52 and the respective rates of mortality; and

(*d*) the steps taken in each case in (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) to reduce mortality figures?

A.—The information required is furnished in the appended statement[a] for the calendar years 1950 and 1951, as Vital Statistics of this State are prepared for calendar years.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—PRIVILEGE MOTION *RE* CERTAIN REMARKS OF THE CHIEF MINISTER OF MYSORE *RE* A RESOLUTION OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

9.40 a.m. MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri T. Viswanatham has given notice of a privilege motion. It reads as follows :—

'I move that the following remarks of the Chief Minister of Mysore on the proceedings of this House made by him in the Mysore Council on 20th July 1953 and reported in the *Hinda*, dated 21st July 1953, page 8, constitute a breach of privilege and contempt of this House and that therefore this matter be referred to a Committee of Privileges and appropriate action be taken on their report :—

" The decision taken by the Madras Assembly was not a real test or final opinion of the Madras Assembly . . . In the view of the speaker the resolution adopted by the Madras Assembly by a snap vote carried no weight or sanction with either the Government of India or the Government of Mysore."'

Before I call Mr. Viswanatham to explain, I must tell the House that the Members of the Assembly and the Council enjoy certain privileges and have freedom of speech. Mr. Viswanatham has brought in a privilege motion because a speech was made, not outside the Council, but inside the Mysore Council. The Members here have got freedom of speech. I want to know from Mr. Viswanatham how he can reconcile both."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Perhaps hon. Members of this House have privileges which Members of other Houses have not got."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, the gist of the offence is this. The Hon. Chief Minister of Mysore State made a statement on the floor of the Legislative Council and this House has been brought into contempt by his saying that the vote does not

[a] Printed as Appendix XVI on pages 1071–1073 supra.

represent the view of the House. Whether he says in the Council or whether he says on a public platform or in the All-India Congress Committee . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The speech on a public platform is different from the speech in the Council. There is a vast difference between the two."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Does a reply from one Member to another Member in this House amount to a contempt, one against another? There is freedom of speech enjoyed in this House. That House in Mysore is equally entitled to that freedom."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The Mysore Council and the Mysore Chief Minister are perfectly entitled to say that my view is wrong. But it is altogether a different thing for them to say that the vote does not represent the view of this House, and it is bringing this House into absolute contempt. If you say, for example, that the Mysore Council is different and therefore the Mysore Chief Minister is at liberty to say what he pleases, shall I ask whether we are at liberty to bring into contempt the House of Commons because we have privileges here?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" What action can they take?"

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The matter will be taken up through the Embassy."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Here is a Speaker to control the speeches. What action will the House of Commons take against us? Same is the case in regard to our Parliament."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Parliament cannot take action. But if the Parliament of one country tries to cast aspersions on the Parliament of another country, the matter will be taken up through well known channels, e.g., the Embassies and the fact that it is spoken on the floor of a Legislature does not mitigate the offence; it may only affect the action to be taken."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Suppose this has happened outside the Council?"

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" In the United Provinces, there was such a case. The only difficulty there was that because the gentleman was outside its territorial jurisdiction, the writ could not be enforced. But actually there was contempt of the House and the House had every right to proceed against him."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Mysore Chief Minister has referred to the ' snap vote '."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I request you to refer to the first sentence that the vote does not represent the view of this House."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yesterday there was a debate and the Leader of the Opposition did not press for a vote. Mr. V. R. Nagarajan wanted to move a censure motion ; of course he did not move it. Suppose the House accepted the censure motion and the Chief Minister says that it is only a snap vote and he won't resign. Is it a contempt of this House ? "

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Referring to the first sentence, please read the second sentence that the resolution adopted by a snap vote does not represent the real view of the House. I submit, Sir, he has brought this House into contempt."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"Suppose now on the floor of this House, I say that that vote was taken when most of the Members were not present and so it did not really represent the views of the whole of this Assembly, there is no aspersion cast on the Assembly or on any Member of this House. The word 'snap vote' is a phrase which is ordinarily used to indicate a vote taken suddenly without notice whatsoever. There is nothing unparliamentary about it. The Chief Minister of Mysore is entitled to hold certain views and ventilate them. I do not think we should take notice of what the Mysore Chief Minister said in his own Assembly and discuss it here."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I think, Sir, the Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam is not quite right when he says he can cast a reflection on the vote taken the other day. It is an offence even under our own rules. One can say whether it is right or wrong or whether it is in the public interest or not. But one cannot pass a reflection on the House. Sir, you are the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House. If you feel that there is no case and if others also feel that there is no case, why should I bother ? "

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, we all know that that resolution to which the Chief Minister of Mysore has referred has been voted upon in this House after full consideration by the House. Usually a snap vote . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" What is a 'snap vote' ? "

* SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" 'Snap vote' is a vote taken suddenly when Members do not know when voting will take place and when the House suddenly decides upon a division. Certainly that particular motion can be said to be not representing the opinion of all the Members of the House. Now, Sir, the resolution under reference was not passed by a snap vote. It was passed after mature consideration and the Chief Minister of Mysore must have known as an experienced parliamentarian that it was not a snap vote. He should not have made that statement and cast a reflection on this House. I hope you will come forward to say that the Chief Minister of another State had no business to say whether it represents the view of this House or not. We have

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passed that resolution after mature consideration. If the resolution has been passed by a snap vote, of course I have a right and he has a right.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' Let not the hon. Member go into the merits of the subject.''

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—'' As the opinion of this House has been very badly criticised by the Chief Minister of Mysore State, I think it is a contempt of this House. Therefore it is right we express that he had no business to cast a reflection on the decision of this House.''

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—'' We would like to know, Mr. Speaker, what the term ' snap vote ' means according to May's Parliamentary Practice.'' 9-50 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER :—'' I will give the definition not from ' May's ' but from ' Hansard's Digest '—

' ***Snap Division.***—**A sudden and, by most Members, unexpected division generally engineered by the Opposition in the hope of catching the Government unawares and defeating it thereby.'**

' ***Snap vote***:—**The phrase '' snap vote '' is not a term of Parliamentary procedure and has no special technical significance. It is an expression in common use, perhaps most frequently in journalists' reports, for a sudden or unexpected vote, a vote not envisaged by the '' whip '' for the day, perhaps even a vote on a trivial point, carefully engineered to trap a government who had not expected that it would be necessary to have their supporters available at that particular moment.'**

'' I wish to know whether the Hon. Chief Minister has got to say anything on this matter.''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—'' I only rise to request Sri Viswanatham not to press his motion.''

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—'' May I just say a few words. I did not particularly refer to one or two more sentences wherein it is stated that the Hon. Chief Minister of this State was charged with partisan attitude and things like that. I did not particularly refer to that. The Chief Minister of Mysore may condemn me or any particular person. That may not be a breach of privilege. But to say that ' that the vote of the House on a particular amendment was a snap vote and that it did not reflect the full opinion of the House ', I submit, Sir, with all seriousness, certainly amounts to a grave breach of privilege of the House as a whole, viewed in the light of Parliamentary conventions and etiquette.

'' Mr. Speaker, my argument is made all the more strong by your quotation, Sir. (Cheers.) You have been good enough to observe that a ' snap vote ' is one that is envisaged by the Opposition, not only envisaged, but carefully engineered also to trap the Government at a time when they had not expected a division. Therefore, Sir, the observation of the Chief Minister of Mysore is made all the more grave. Of course, Sir, the Chief

Minister of Mysore is at liberty to speak against me, or any person in particular or against the Chief Minister of Madras also in *person*. We can also do so. I do admit that the Mysore Legislators enjoy the same privileges as we do here. But what has the Chief Minister of Mysore done? He categorically said that the 'snap vote of *this* House (when the fact was that this House had already given its verdict) did *not* represent the full view of the House.' That is why I say, Sir, that the prestige of *this House*, as a whole, has been affected and that the observation of the Mysore Chief Minister certainly amounts to a breach of privilege of the House. Under any interpretation of Parliamentary procedure, such a remark does constitute a breach of privilege of this House. I do hope, Mr. Speaker, that you would agree with me. I do hope that you will refer the same to the Committee of Privileges."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that this is a matter affecting the privilege of the House, as Mr. Viswanatham so eloquently put it. I would only request Sri Viswanatham to withdraw his motion and not press it."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I only wanted to show to the House that the remark of the Mysore Chief Minister amounted to a breach of privilege of this House. I have of course, no objection, to take the advice of Sri Subramaniam that we shall not talk of what the Mysore Chief Minister has said any more provided the discussion that has already taken place serves the purpose for which my motion was moved. His remarks and my motion may therefore be treated as *non est*."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I think this is the first time a motion of this kind has been brought before this House. In the history of this Legislature this is the first time that we have a motion like this before us. Only yesterday I had to exercise my casting vote. That was also the first time the Speaker of this House had to exercise his casting vote.

" Coming to the present motion, I am inclined to think that the members of the Mysore Legislature have got the same freedom of speech as we, Members of this House, have, nothing more and nothing less. All enjoy the same privileges that have been given to us with regard to ' freedom of speech ' under our Constitution I shall read the relevant portion from May's Parliamentary Practice. It says :

' The absolute privilege of statements made in debate is no longer contested but it may be observed that the privilege which formerly protected members against action by the Crown now serves largely as protection against prosecution by individuals or corporate bodies. Subject to the rules of order in debate, a member may state whatever he thinks fit in debate, however offensive it may be to the feelings, or injurious to the character, of individuals ; and he is protected by his privilege from any action for libel, as well as from any other question or molestation.'

Again it is said—

'Speech and action in Parliament may thus be said to be unquestioned and free. But this freedom from external influence or interference does not involve any unrestrained licence of speech within the walls of the House.' "

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" But the speech of the Hon. Chief Minister of Mysore though it is not directed against any individual Member here, certainly is a reflection upon the whole House. That is why I say it amounts to a breach of privilege of the House."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It includes a corporate body also. That is what I have read. I am now going to give my ruling.

" I rule that no *prima facie* case has been made out."

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

REMOVAL OF CIVIL SUPPLIES LORRIES, ETC., FROM VIJAYAVADA.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The other day the hon. Member Sri Yellamanda Reddi gave notice of an adjournment motion. Sri M. Hanumantha Rao also has given notice of an adjournment motion. I would like to know whether the Leader of the House has got anything to say on this."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, an allegation has been made in one of the resolutions that some lorries from the Vijayavada fleet had been taken away and that too because the place is in Andhra territory. It is an absolutely baseless statement. As a matter of fact the fleet in the Andhra area has been strengthened to a certain extent. Sir, these allegations have been made not only because of a misconception of facts but because certain posts there had been abolished.

" I do request of hon. Members to verify the facts before they move adjournment motions. Let them not bring in baseless issues on the floor of the House. If they have to elicit some information let them put short-notice questions and get answers or get the facts in consultation with me. After ascertaining facts, let them move their motions."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" No, Sir. This incident has already been reported in some of the newspapers and the Government have not till now contradicted it."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Is it 'Andhra Prabha' or 'Patrika'? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Some Telugu newspapers."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" Both 'Andhra Prabha' and 'Andhra Patrika', Sir."